

number of vaccinations given to Black Philadelphians and to reduce the vaccination disparity between White and Black Philadelphians.

Dr. Ala Stanford is the recipient of several awards including the Health Equality Advocate award, and she is a decorated and revered physician who is considered a champion for health equity and access. She is a native of North Philadelphia who pours her all into creating wellness outcomes for her communities. Her accolades are lengthy, and she's the first Black woman pediatric surgeon trained entirely in the United States. She's board certified by the American Board of Surgery in both pediatric and adult surgery.

With all her accomplishments and community work, Dr. Stanford has received a great deal of national media attention for her phenomenal work with the BDCC in providing care during the pandemic. Her work is regarded as a model for sound community health engagement. Assistant U.S. Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levin stated: "The Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium is such a fantastic example of how we're going to reach individuals in their communities with messages from people that they know and people that they trust—trusted messengers like Dr. Stanford."

The Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to the Black Doctors COVID-19 and Dr. Ala Stanford for their dedicated support and extraordinary service to the people of Philadelphia in their effort to provide testing and expand access and equitable distribution of the coronavirus vaccine.

HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN SAN ANTONIO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in San Antonio, Texas, and across the United States. Since 1977, every May, we celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of AAPI communities. Though a modest population, we have a vibrant community of AAPIs in San Antonio that contribute greatly to our city's prosperity.

Since 1860s, immigrants of Asian descent began migrating to Texas and Southwestern States and today the AAPI community account for 5 percent of the total population in Texas, and it's one of the fastest growing communities in the United States. Like many immigrants, Asian Americans were often unwelcome and suffered racism and discrimination. For example, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 prohibited individuals arriving or staying in the United States solely based on their ethnicity.

Today, AAPI communities continue to face discrimination and even violence, which is often underreported. During COVID-19, hate crimes against AAPIs have grown exponentially and the community is still living in fear. In recognition of the continued threats that AAPI communities endure, Congress passed legislation that President Biden signed into law to ensure hate crimes against AAPIs are in-

vestigated and prosecuted. Our Nation must come together and work to address centuries of discrimination that impedes our Nation from its full promise of equality and justice for all.

Over the generations, AAPI communities have made significant contributions in the arts, government, business, medicine, and education. In San Antonio, our city is led by Ron Nirenberg, the city's first mayor of Asian descent. I'm also particularly proud of AAPI veterans, including 33 individuals who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and also AAPI men and women who serve our Nation in uniform.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for our Nation's AAPI communities, and I am proud to recognize their accomplishments. Thank you.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor each and every person who wears a uniform or has served in our country's Armed Forces and celebrate National Military Appreciation Month.

My home state of Hawaii is home to over 142,000 military members, family and support personnel, making it the largest and most important multi-service military 'ohana in the IndoPacific. We are deeply grateful to those who are regularly deployed to protect our Hawaii, along with the many more who are proud to volunteer their time, skills and abilities to the task of making our country and our world a better place for all.

Just as crucial to the fabric of Hawaii's military community is the more than 108,000 veterans who call Hawaii home. These men and women served with honor, and we must always ensure they are provided with the benefits they so rightfully earned and deserve.

I also want to extend my enduring gratitude to the families of our soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and guardsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

Freedom, justice equality—these are the values that the men and women of our Armed Forces are charged to preserve and protect. Each of us owes our very best efforts to ensure that America's servicemembers can defend our values. We must make sure they are mission-ready, with the training and equipment necessary to carry out their duties here in our country and overseas.

As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies, I am dedicated to properly supporting our present military members and their families and fulfilling the promises made to our veterans. Their service deserves our nation's respect and recognition not just for this month—but every day.

Move forward with strength (Imua).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for votes on May 13, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 138, and NAY on Roll Call No. 141.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Federal Protective Service (FPS) in recognition of their service to our Nation. After passing the Capitol security bill in this Chamber earlier this week, it is only natural that we highlight the work of our protection agencies and their commitment to the Federal workforce. As a former law enforcement officer, I understand the pivotal role of security today more than ever. Following the U.S. Capitol attacks on January 6, we witnessed firsthand how important it is to have law enforcement agencies like FPS to protect our Federal facilities and workforce.

For half a century, FPS has served and protected the American people and government business with honor, integrity, and commitment. Since its inception in 1971, FPS has contributed to the protection of people and property in the Federal Government by identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities through risk assessments, law enforcement, intelligence analysis, and security measures. Two major acts of terror against the United States have shaped FPS to anticipate emerging threats more effectively: the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995, and the terror attacks on September 11. Today, FPS provides the Department of Homeland Security Secretary with a highly trained, nationwide force that can support needs in countering emerging or existing threats and terrorism, within the boundaries of our Nation and territories. It is also responsible for protecting over 9,000 facilities and more than 1.4 million people who work, visit, or conduct business at these facilities each day.

FPS has shown that it is a leader within the law enforcement and protection community. It is their work and dedication that brings us closer to the vision of a Federal workforce and workplace that is safe, secure, and resilient moving forward.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our Nation's most critical Federal agencies.